and nine pilots. Mercantile marine matters are dealt with by the Port Officer. The senior assistant is also Superintendent of Lighthouses.

The Port has continued to thrive throughout the period and there has been a further increase in the number and tonnage of ships using the harbour. There has been an increase in the number of ships calling for the purpose of bunkering and a consequent increase in the business done by the oil supplying companies. Coal bunkering has shown no falling off noticeable in previous years.

The Aden Port Trust publishes an annual report.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND INFORMATION OFFICE

The Public Relations and Information Office continued under the part-time supervision of the District Commissioner with an Advisory Committee representing local opinion. In accordance with this recommendation the main activity has been the showing of news and documentary films, in English and Arabic, at clubs and in public open spaces.

A regular series of Bulletins, in English and Arabic and occasionally Gujerati, was published on departmental activities and matters of local interest, and these are now issued from time to time on special topics. Regular news sheets were issued in 1949 and early in 1950, but these have now been replaced by occasional press conferences with Heads of Departments as the local Arab press is increasing in circulation and experience and becoming more qualified to give publicity to Government intentions and achievements.

There is no local broadcasting system, news and entertainment being offered direct by the B.B.C. Arabic Service and the broadcasting stations of Cairo, Delhi, Damascus, Baghdad and other Arab countries. A public address system, with loud-speakers in open spaces in the main centres of population, is used for announcements of importance.

Public reading rooms in the Colony, which had been set up by the Ministry of Information during the war, were closed as a measure of economy in 1948, but three were maintained in the Protectorate.

The routine activities of the Office which includes the supply of news reels to commercial cinemas, the distribution of periodicals to institutions and interested persons, and the provision of information services to the Aden Protectorate and Kamaran, were maintained during the year.

Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

Imperial weights and measures are the legal standard, but a number of local and Indian measures are in use, particularly the *frasila*, which is normally 28 lb. but varies for different commodities.

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647 tion of newsreels to commercial cinemas and the supply of periodicals
204 and official pictorial matter to institutions and interested persons in the
596 Colony and Protectorate. In addition, regular showings were given to the public and to clubs of news and documentary films in English and Arabic, an activity later brought within the sphere of the Labour and Welfare Department.

368 Three public reading rooms were maintained in the Protectorate and have continued to be well patronised.

Chapter 13: General

ARCHAEOLOGY

172 In 1950 and 1951 the American Foundation for the Study of Man carried out two short seasons of excavation in Beihan under the archaeological supervision of Professor W. F. Albright. The main site examined, that of Hagr Kohlan, was already known from inscriptions, to be the ruins of Timna, the capital of the ancient kingdom of Qataban. The area of the walled city covered some 70 acres and excavation revealed a number of very substantial and well constructed stone buildings. The city appeared to have been totally destroyed by fire about the end of the 1st Century B.C. A section cut in a subsidiary mound produced a long series of pottery types thought to show more or less continuous occupation from the 13th Century B.C. down to the Middle Ages. A large number of inscriptions found in both sites and elsewhere in Wadi Beihan are in course of being published by Dr. A. Jamme of Louvain.

ARCHIVAL SURVEY

217 In October, 1952, Dr. A. Toussaint, the Chief Archivist to the Government of Mauritius, arrived to conduct a preliminary survey of Government archives and records. Though the survey was not complete at the end of the year it was clear that substantial progress in the method of preserving and cataloguing the records of the Colony would call for greatly improved storage facilities and expert staff.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

368 Adult education in Aden has not reached a stage where cultural activities flourish spontaneously; nor, since the closing down of the British Council, is there any cultural centre outside the Department of Education. The nearest approach to such a centre and in itself a legacy of the British Council is the Lake Library.

This library has been built up over a period of twelve years and now contains 10,000 volumes; these include Arabic and Urdu books and a reference library. The reading room, which is provided with a wide selection of periodicals and is comfortably furnished, is extremely popular in the evening. The library has a large and growing membership of Europeans who are quick to appreciate its worth. The Arab